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Parliamentarians for East Timor
244A Upper Street, London N1 1RU

11 May 1989

Memo on Parliamentarians for East Timor

1. I enclose the current list of members of PET. As you will see, membership is very unevenly spread out, with some countries not represented at all and others only minimally. Kindly consider how this situation might be improved in your own country. If you can recommend MPs who might join, you should let me know. Lord Avebury will then write inviting them to join.

2. I also enclose the letter sent this week to all PET members, for you to consider how to support and encourage your PET members to respond.

3. You recently received the letter sent by Bishop Belo to the UN Secretary General. Please let me know whether your government has shown any interest in this initiative.

Carmel

Founder Members
Satsuki Eda MHR (Japan), Tony Lamb MHR (Australia), Lord Avebury (UK)
Secretary: Carmel Budiardjo

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Members of Parliamentarians for East Timor

Australia

Tony Lamb, Labour Party
other members of the all-party Parliamentary Forum on East Timor
(names and number not yet reported)

Canada

David D. Stopich

German Federal Republic

Gert Bastian, Greens (Generals for Peace and Disarmament)
Rudolf Bindig, Social Democrat, chair Human Rights Group
Petra Kelly, Greens
Dr Helmut Lippelt, Greens
Dr Antje Vollmer, Greens

Japan

Eda Satsuki, Social-Democratic Coalition
and 73 members of the all-party Parliamentary Forum for East Timor

Netherlands

Andrée van Es
F. Bolding

Portugal

Carlos Encarnacáo, PSD
Antonio C.A. de Sousa Lara, PSD
Eduardo Ribeiro Pereira, Socialist Party
Herculano Pombo, Greens
Rui José Santos Silva, De. Renewal Party

Sweden

Iwar Andersson
Hans Göran Franck
Per Gahrton
Eva Goës

United Kingdom

Lord Avebury, Liberal and chair, all-party Parliamentary Human Rights Group
Ann Clwyd, Labour
Lord Rea, Labour

Members of the European Parliament

Carole Tongue, Socialist (UK)

11 May 1989

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From Lord Avebury

1989 May 12

May I welcome you as a member of Parliamentarians for East Timor and suggest some ideas for concerted action by our new organisation.

1. The head of the East Timor Church, Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo has recently written to the UN Secretary General calling for a referendum to be held. I enclose a copy of his letter. We can support this initiative by asking our respective governments to call upon the Secretary General to respond quickly and positively to Bishop Belo's request.

2. The Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia, the international aid consortium for Indonesia, is meeting in The Hague on June 13-14 this year. This is an occasion for us to urge IGGI member states to agree to make representations to the Indonesian Government regarding East Timor. I enclose a letter sent to the chair of IGGI by the three founders of PET. Would you support this initiative by writing to your Government along similar lines, urging that the IGGI consider the question of East Timor. Your Government is part of the IGGI consortium and regularly attends the annual meetings.

3. The Indonesian authorities are making much of their new policy of open access to East Timor. It would therefore be helpful if the Indonesian authorities were to receive a number of requests from parliamentarians wishing to go there. In March, a group of seven British parliamentarians were invited to Indonesia, through the auspices of the IPU. They visited East Timor for one-and-a-half days. The only opportunity they were given to look into the human rights situation was a visit to a prison in Dili where they met and talked to several political prisoners. A meeting with Bishop Belo which had been included on their itinerary was cancelled without explanation. The parliamentarians were not aware at the time of the Bishop's appeal to the UN Secretary General.

May I suggest that you approach the Indonesian Embassy in your country, requesting an invitation to visit East Timor. The penultimate paragraph of the enclosed letter to the chair of the IGGI sets out the conditions which such a visit should fulfil.

4. The Pope is to visit East Timor in October this year during a visit to Indonesia. You could write to His Holiness asking him to use the occasion of his visit to emphasise human rights and in particular the right of the people of East Timor to preserve their distinctive religious, social and cultural identity. You might wish to recall the Pope's remark, on receiving

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the credentials of the new Indonesian ambassador in December 1987: "The Church's universal mission leads her to hope that particular consideration will be given to the protection of the ethnic, religious and cultural character of the people of East Timor."

The Catholic Church in East Timor which was formerly part of the Portuguese Church, has not been incorporated into the Catholic Church of Indonesia. In view of East Timor's present position in international law, the East Timor Church is
administered directly by the Vatican. The Indonesian Government has tried hard to convince the Vatican to end this situation by placing the Dili Church under the Indonesian Catholic Church, and hopes that the Pope's visit will bring this about. We must ensure that, on the contrary, the visit does not lead to a change in the present status of the East Timor Church.

I very much hope you will be able to take up some or all of these suggestions and inform me of any responses you receive.

Ms F. Bolding MP,
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Netherlands